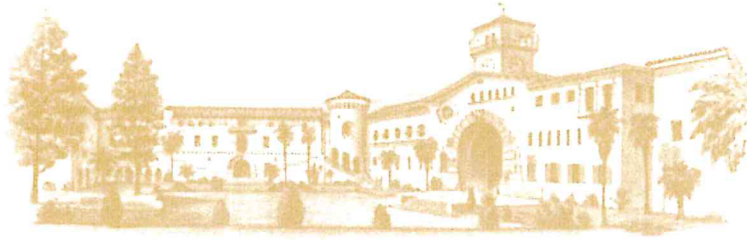


STEVE LAVAGNINO
County Supervisor
Fifth District
steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org

CORY BANTILAN
Chief of Staff
cory.bantilan@countyofsb.org



SANDY AGALOS
Administrative Assistant
sandy.agalos@countyofsb.org

YESENIA CUEVAS
Administrative Assistant
yesenia.cuevas@countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Date: 3/15/2023

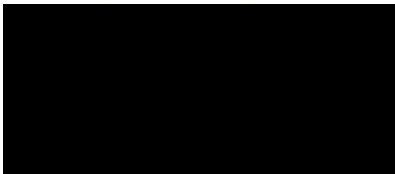
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Appointment of Abraham Melendrez

For placement on the Board of Supervisors agenda for the meeting of April 4, 2023.

I would like to appoint the following individual for appointment to the Arts Commission:


Abraham Melendrez



Appointee will represent the Fifth District on this commission.

Term Expires:
June 30, 2026

Fifth District Supervisor: Steve Lavagnino

Signed by: 

COB Information Verification

- Letter of Resignation on file
- Vacancy Notice on file

Term:

- _____ years
- Beginning date _____
- Ending date _____

Profile

Abraham

First Name

Melendrez

Last Name

[Redacted]

Email Address

[Redacted]

Street Address

[Redacted]

Suite or Apt

[Redacted]

City

CA

State

93458

Postal Code

Indicate Supervisor Who Will Receive a Copy of your Application *

Fifth District - Steve Lavagnino

[Redacted]

Primary Phone

[Redacted]

Alternate Phone

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Arts Commission: Submitted

Reference 1 Name

Samuel Duarte

Reference 1 Address

[Redacted]

Reference 1 Telephone

[Redacted]

Reference 1 Occupation

Director - Little House by the Park

Reference 2 Name

Andy Watson

Reference 2 Address

[Redacted]

Reference 2 Telephone

[Redacted]

Reference 2 Occupation

Teacher - SMBSD

Reference 3 Name

Adrienne Allebe

Reference 3 Address

[Redacted]

Reference 3 Telephone

[Redacted]

Reference 3 Occupation

Associate Professor of Art - Allan Hancock College

If you are now, or have ever been employed by the County of Santa Barbara, please list the department in which you worked, your title, and the dates you were employed.

N/A

Interests & Experiences

Please explain why you are interested in serving, and what experience you bring to the Committee. Attach additional documentation as necessary.

I believe that all members of our communities deserve access to the arts and cultural enriching opportunities, particularly those from underserve communities in our county. As the current Executive Director of the Cultural and Creative Arts Center of the Santa Maria Valley (Corazon del Pueblo), Santa Maria's first Latino cultural and creative center, I've had the opportunity to work with local youth, farmworking families, local artist and more to develop programs that benefit those who lack access to these opportunities. I want to serve on the Committee to advocate and outreach to our north county families so that they might better benefit from the work of our county Arts Commission, as well as to connect with our central and south county communities to benefit all our communities county-wide.

Give any information explaining qualifications, experience, training, education, volunteer activities, community organization memberships, or personal interests that bear on your application for the above Board, Commission or Committee. Attach additional documentation as necessary.

I have been working with farmworking, immigrant families and Latinx youth for over 6 years, helping to develop their leadership so they may better advocate for themselves and become civic participants in their communities. Additionally, I have served and lead many coalitions including as previous chair of the North County coalition (coalition of community, faith and labor based organizations, elected leaders and community members), previous member of the California's Community Organizers Coalition for Youth Poverty, and previous member of many tri-county and San Luis Obispo county coalitions including the SLO Farmworker Taskforce, Latino Health Council, Regional Equity Roundtable, Mixteco Outreach Coalition and more. Lastly, I have had the honor of serving as a committee member on the Santa Maria's Measure U committee for the past 4 years.

[2022 Abraham Melendrez Resume.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Demographics

Ethnicity

Hispanic

Gender

Male


Date of Birth

Education Completed:

University of California Berkeley, Berkeley - Bachelor's Degree, Psychology Allan Hancock College, Santa Maria - Associate in Arts, Social and Behavioral Sciences & Mathematics and Science

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I agree that upon submission of this application all information provided is a matter of public record, and is subject to disclosure.

I Agree *

Abraham Melendrez

WORK EXPERIENCE

Cultural and Creative Arts Center of the Santa Maria Valley – Corazon del Pueblo

Executive Director

Santa Maria, CA

03/2022 – Present

- Executive Director of Santa Maria's first Latinx Cultural and Creative Arts Center.
- Creating cultural programs and advocating for equitable access to the arts for our underserved BIPOC community members.

The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County

San Luis Obispo, CA

UndocuSupport Program Director

11/2021 – 03/2022

- Worked with our leadership board to apply for additional county grants including American Rescue Plan ACT (ARPA) for direct relief for Undocumented families in SLO County in the amount of \$360,000 as well as a general Community Based Organization CBO development grant for \$27,000 (Currently awaiting grant decisions).
- Monthly grant reporting to the SLO County Health department as part of our health equity grant through the county.
- Represented UndocuSupport and advocated for immigrant families at regional coalition meetings including: SLO Farmworker Taskforce, Latino Health Council, Regional Equity Roundtable, Mixteco Outreach Coalition and more.
- Lead monthly UndocuSupport meetings and bi-weekly strategic planning meetings with our strategic organizational consultant to develop a long-term organization plan and formalizing our leadership board and organizational structure.
- Represented the organization as the key media and public representative for media interviews and public entity meetings such as First 5 SLO County Commissioners meeting.

Central Coast United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) - 501(c)(3) - Santa Maria, CA

Community Organizer / Policy & Communications Rep

12/2016 – 08/2020

- Served as the north Santa Barbara County representative for CAUSE. Leading, organizing and participating on many region-wide coalitions including: Chair of the North County Coalition, Co-organizer for the Interfaith Allies for Immigration Justice, Santa Barbara Food Justice Roundtable, Santa Maria Active Transportation and many more.
- Planned, created talking points for, and facilitated meetings with local, county, state and congressional representatives in Santa Maria and Sacramento; lobbying for social policies, budget items, planning items and more.
- Created region-wide formal policy briefs, newsletters, flyers, donor asks, social media posts, videos, press releases and more to educate the community, brief elected officials on key issues and assist campaign efforts. *(Examples available upon request)*
- Lead many social and traditional media campaigns including a Farmworker's campaign that reached over 4 million people around the US, Mexico and Canada.
- Served as the point media relations contact for local English and Spanish media contacts, having dozens of interviews and press conferences under my belt. *(Examples available upon request)*

- Led multiple campaigns that tackled issues of youth safety, election districting, farmworker & immigration issues, voting rights, city planning, educational policies & funding, the effects of the pandemic on marginalized communities and more.
- Planned, advertised, organized turnout and lead dozens of community wide events from a few members to hundreds of participants, including the CAUSE Youth Town Hall in 2017, the CAUSE General Plan Town Hall in 2018 and the CAUSE Housing Rights Town Hall in 2019.
- First organizer to work with a young adult committee for BIPOC young adults and teens in Santa Maria. Responsibilities included recruitment through class presentations / networking, running strong bi-weekly meetings/training/events for over 2 years.
- Was the organization's main translator of all communications materials into Spanish, ensuring accurate but easy to understand access to hundreds of materials, social media posts and captioned video content.
- Completely revamped all of CAUSE's Video and Photo communications standards to reach more community members, donors and grow our social media presence tenfold by bringing professional tools, methods and training other Policy/Communications Advocate Staff in Video Editing and Social Media Graphic Design through Adobe creative suite.

CAUSE Action Fund (CAF) - 501(c)(4) -

Santa Maria, CA

Community Organizer / Policy & Communications Rep

12/2016 – 08/2020

- Created election reporting literature targeted to potential donors focusing on community canvassing efforts, voter data and victories across five cities in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.
- Combined community input and policy research to draft and edit questions for multiple legislative visits with elected officials.
- Participated in multiple election cycles as a lead canvasser to get the vote out. Speaking with hundreds of voters about our endorsed candidates.
- Helped organize and run city and regional donor development events, as well as developed multiple monthly donor relationships through in-person and telephone asks.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Community Leadership and Volunteering

- Nominated by councilwoman Gloria Soto and appointed to a 4-year term by the city council to the Santa Maria Measure U Citizen's Oversight Committee 03/2019 – Present
- Fund for Santa Barbara – Youth Making Change Mentor 08/2018 – Present
- Leading for Community Impact Program (part of Leading from Within) 06/2019 – 06/2020
- Board member for the Santa Barbara County Action Network (SBCAN) 06/2018 – 08/2020
- Member of the League of Women Voters of Santa Maria Valley 10/2017 – 06/2020
- McCune Foundation Nonprofit Coach for:
 - Truth and Recruitment & People's Self Help Housing 08/2018 – 02/2020
- Co-organizer for the Santa Maria Valley Women's March 06/2018 – 02/2020

EDUCATION

University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

Bachelor's Degree, Psychology

2016

Allan Hancock College, Santa Maria, CA

Associate in Arts, Social and Behavioral Sciences & Mathematics and Science

2013